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# The Ansgar Lutheran

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...ing followed a full surrender

## A FAITH THAT WORKS

WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN GOD TAKES CHARGE

By Sue Wenzel

I am a perfect example of the ravages of anxiety or fear. For over twenty years I suffered with an eye infection. My education was interrupted many times and earning a living was difficult. I had to spend long hours in bed. Whenever the infection started, it always lasted a week and sometimes longer. I had long periods of good health and then the disease always returned.

My family took me to the best of doctors. These men did everything within their power to help. As the drugs came into use, I hoped for a cure but none came. The periods between attacks became shorter and finally my eyes were continually infected, for over four years.

I began to realize that the anxiety was always accompanied each attack was worse than the disease. When my eyes were well, I worried day for fear the infection would return, and when the disease was active, I was afraid it would get worse. I was choked and mangled with worry. My mind was so troubled I could not possibly be healed physically. And I saw quite clearly I would be much better if I could only overcome my terrible, unyielding fear.

For a long time I tried to find the answer in religion but it always failed me. I listened in church and

I read the Bible. For a long time the ministers of my church were saying "You must let Christ guide your life." That puzzled me. I didn't know that I wanted new management. I thought I was satisfied with my own guidance.

When my eyes were infected, my mother read to me. I kept hearing, "Christ is the way," and yet I could not relate that fact to my own life.

About this time I was exposed to people who are participating in the "Witnessing Fellowship." At "Faith in Action" meetings and by personal witnessing these people told me how they had turned their own lives over to Christ. I heard the most amazing stories of changed lives, and exposure to their "good infection" gave me a new conviction—"Christ must be my Manager."

As I thought of surrendering my life to God I realized that the worrying I was doing was really sin. I could see it was sin because it meant not trusting God. I had been asking God to make me well but I had never stopped to consider His plan for me. I had just wanted my own way. **Maybe my way and God's are not the same**, I thought.

Then, after much prayer and soul-searching, I could pray, "God, if You want me to be well, please

make it so; but if for some reason that I can't understand, You want me to have this eye infection, I will accept it."

When I came to believe this prayer down deep in my heart, a miracle happened. The terrible, choking anxiety lifted like a curtain. If God was guiding my life, I realized that I need have no fear. Whatever was to happen would be best for me, even though it didn't seem so at the time. I began to wake up each morning with a strangely good feeling of well-being. God was running my life. Truly I knew I was a new person.

Then a second miracle happened. The infection cleared completely and I have now been free from it for the longest period in years.

Of course there are times when the old worries creep back and I again become anxious about my health and other matters of everyday living. For awhile this greatly troubled me, especially as God had so wonderfully shown me His love and caring; but now I have made some fresh discoveries including five steps that help overcome any continuing tendency to regress:

**The first step** away from doubt is the knowledge of the power of imagination. Our unguided imaginations play tricks on our minds. We know by reason and by revelation that God's way is best but every once in awhile we fear that maybe we aren't going to like it, and we allow ourselves to embroider on negative thoughts.

The awareness of this fact leads  
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# News and Notes

**Dickson, Alberta, Canada, Ole Larsen, Pastor.** On Feb. 2, 1956 one of our old members was summoned from this world. In June four families left us and went to Red Deer, Calgary and British Columbia. Then some time later Mrs. Raun left for Oregon, U.S.A. July 24th Mrs. Christian Larsen passed away. She was the oldest daughter of our first pastor, Gundersen. Marie Sorensen died Dec. 13 at the age of 71. Andy Dyrholm and Mr. and Mrs. Knud Christiansen left for Calgary this Fall.

**Westby, Mont., Ejvind Nielsen, Pastor.** The Westby area brotherhood is a very active organization. It had a good year. July 4th it held a celebration with the Rev. H. B. Kildahl of Minot, N. Dak. as speaker. Two pioneer families, Carl M. Jensens and Matt Madsens moved to Crosby, N. Dak., during the year. But three new families have moved into the community. August 12, we had a very impressive confirmation service for seven. October 28th we had adult baptismal and confirmation service. Sept. 23rd the S. S. teachers met for a rally in the Daneville Lutheran Church with Pastor Lesly Brante of Williston, N. Dak., as the speaker. Mission meetings were held Oct. 30-Nov. 4th. Reformation service was held in the High School auditorium with Evangelist Almquist of Spicer Minn. as speaker. The annual business meeting of the area Brotherhood was held Nov. 26, and new officers were elected. They will be installed the fourth Monday of January. Guest speaker was S. F. Christofferson of Bainville, Mont.

**San Francisco, Calif. Spener S. Petersen, Pastor.** Ansgar Lutherans have just reason to feel proud of Miss Donna Jean Petersen, the talented daughter of our pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Spener S. Petersen. The newspaper music critic had this comment about the opera MADAM BUTTERFLY of the Pacific Opera Co.: "Donna Jean Petersen was one of the most clear, rich-voiced, and expressive Suzukis the company has ever had." And again we read in the LOS

ANGELES TIMES of the San Francisco opera performers who were honored, with Donna Jean's name listed among the stars. With the Guild Opera Company in Los Angeles, Donna Jean sang the leading role in Rossini's CINDERELLA in 13 performances to a combined audience of 60,000. She is a member of the Cosmopolitan and the Pacific Opera Companies of San Francisco and sings for the San Francisco Opera Company and for the Peninsula Children's Concerts.

Donna Jean's talents have been used in rich measure in God's service and Ansgar congregation loves her for her loyalty to our church, and for all she has done in the Luther League, choir, Fellowship League, and Sunday School. She also served on the music committee for the Reformation festival, is at present ticket chairman for the coming St. Olaf Choir Concert, and participates often in special festival and holiday services in other churches in the Bay Area.

## CALIFORNIA IS CALLING

Do our church-planners follow the findings of the Census Bureau in Washington? They should if they plan to meet present needs and to extend the work of the church to the best advantage.

A recent census report says: "California Leads in Population Rise." Some much smaller states, notably Nevada, Arizona and Florida, have enjoyed a larger percent gain in population. But California's over-all increase for these past six years outstrips all the rest. By 1965 it is predicted California will have at least 18,000,000 inhabitants, more than New York, next largest, and several millions more than states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and Minnesota. Ten thousand newcomers enter California each week, we are told—not simply as visitors and tourists—but to stay for good. What are our Lutheran strategists and planners doing about it?

Our various syodical bodies, six or seven, are working hard in planting mission congregations in this growing

area. But the work done does not meet the need involved, due to obvious reasons. It is for the most part administered by different offices in the East, far removed from the scene of operations. Different methods are followed. In spite of efforts of understanding, competition and duplication are in evidence. Lagging effort in solving the education problem hampers the work. A Lutheran college in Southern California has long been a crying need. Such a college, while approved, still is in the planning stage. The Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, located in Berkeley, is doing excellent work, recruiting and training young men from all synodical bodies, but its large usefulness is also limited by the fact that it is supported entirely by the United Lutheran Church and mostly by only two of the bodies of that Lutheran group.

Having spent these last four years teaching in the above mentioned Seminary and having traversed the state from north to south, we are of the firm opinion that California offers a great challenge to our church planners and that more vigorous measures are in order. If any one doubts this opinion, we suggest a study of the 1956 Census Bureau report.

—Gerhard Lee

## FOUR LUTHERAN BODIES TAKE FIRST STEPS TOWARD MERGER

Chicago—Four American Lutheran church bodies agreed to proceed once toward their goal of organic union after preliminary conversations on a possible blueprint for a church structure during a two-day meeting here (Dec. 12 and 13).

Commissions representing the church bodies with a combined membership of more than 2,861,000 voted to organize formally as the Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity, elect permanent officers and, after recognizing their doctrinal unity, decide to press forward immediately in efforts to achieve greater Lutheran unity in America.

The 42 commissioners elected were Rev. Dr. Malvin H. Lundeen of Grange, Ill., vice president of the

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JOHN M. JENSEN, Editor  
321 E. 8th Street  
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# Editorials and Comments

## QUIT SMOKING, ETC.

Pastor F. G. Rasmussen contends in an article, page 1, that if 15,000 members of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church would quit smoking, each one would be able to save \$30.00 which could be given to the kingdom of God. This would be an amount of \$450,000. These 15,000 men or women could thus pay the budget of the church on their smoking money or do some other nice things.

We are not trying to argue with Pastor Rasmussen. We are sure that there are many places where we might help ourselves. And self-denial is part of following Christ.

But it seems to us that the article raises a much larger question. Why single out smoking? Is this because excessive smoking may endanger the health?

We may think of many areas in life where we could help ourselves. A man goes on a hunting trip. It costs \$200.00, and he shoots a few ducks. Another man spends \$200.00 on a fishing trip and catches nothing, but comes home and says he had a good time.

We know people who could save a good deal of money on their vacations. People spend money on hobbies. Why not spend less money on playing golf?

Think of the money we could save if we spent less on cars. Why drive an expensive car when a cheaper one will do the same?

Think of the money we could save on clothing, cosmetics, eating and drinking.

And we would not need to buy all the gadgets we do, such as TV sets.

Think of the money that might be saved on football, basketball and baseball. Perhaps the members of the church could spend more than \$450,000 a year on tickets to games.

We are not sarcastic in these statements. It is a fact that we are too prosperous in America. We suffer from prosperity. It is very difficult for prosperous people to look through this whole problem. The average family in America might have saved 200 dollars during the recent Christmas. These could have been used for many other purposes.

But we cannot run away from life. We are part of the world in the country in which we live. It would be so easy if we did not have these things, and yet—then we would have other problems.

We have found that it is always well to turn to the scriptures for advice. Jesus says, deny yourselves. Yet he made water into wine at the wedding at Cana. He ate with publicans and sinners at their parties. Jesus seemed to live a happy and normal life all the time. He did not merely live on locusts and wild honey as John the Baptist.

Again let us say that in our days of prosperity it may be difficult for us to learn self-denial. A man puts a dollar in the collection plate for Hungarian relief, or \$10.00. But he does exactly as he has planned for Christmas anyway. He does not give up anything. There is no self-denial in that.

A man gives \$25.00 a year to his church and spends \$200.00 the same year on a fishing trip or on golfing. That man ought to learn a few things about the fruits of the Spirit.

Yet men need recreation. It is good for them to have hobbies. It may save on doctor bills and make them more efficient in their jobs.

Peder Palladius says that the devil gives us so many bad times that we must snatch a few good times when we have a chance.

But where must the line be drawn? We have only one answer: We must be guided by the Spirit of God in our conscience. If we live close to God, he will tell us. We must live by the Spirit and not by the law.

This is always our big problem.

## WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

We got a parish paper which had this news item: "Five children were enrolled in our cradle roll last Sunday through baptism." We know what the writer means. Five little children were added to the church. But when we get new birth in the Sacrament of Baptism, it is belittling the Sacrament, when we say they were added to the cradle roll through baptism. The educational effect of the announcement is bad. Why not simply say that five new children have been added to our cradle roll recently, or say, five children were baptized into the kingdom of God last Sunday. It is taken for granted that the cradle roll secretary gets their names.

Our use of language has an educational effect on the readers.

## NEW YEAR WISHES

We come to you every year with the same wishes; Pastors, send us worthwhile articles and short devotional articles. Send us ideas that might improve the paper. Your editor is a man like you with a growing church. We must edit this paper in our spare time, sometimes at night. So come to our assistance now and then.

We also ask the writers to send us the news from the congregations. News of general value is much appreciated.

Then we ask you for your pardon, if we in the short time we have, have overlooked something important in the parish papers you kindly send us. Also if we have cut things out of your news items that we found might have local value only and not general value. We hope that we may get short letters from you. Why not sit down and write a letter giving us your ideas on your favored subject right now?

Thank you, dear readers and writers for patience and good will. May we all serve our Master better in 1957!



## Church News from here and there

### THE YEAR IN RELIGION

By Dr. Winfred E. Garrison

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The Visible Church—to use a phrase familiar to theologians — flourished during 1956. The wave of church building rolled on, with the total new investment near the end of the year higher than at the same time in record-breaking 1955.

A million-dollar church is no longer necessarily conspicuous. Many city churches planning new buildings secure sites measured in acres rather than square feet, to provide parking space. These church parking lots are well-filled, for by most reports the attendance at services is up, though one may doubt whether it really is 49 per cent of the adult population every week as a Gallup poll made it a year ago.

It is standard practice for an increasing number of churches to have duplicate Sunday morning services to accommodate what would otherwise be an overflow, and to fill the sanctuary at both. This "fuller utilization of the plant" was scarcely known a few years ago, except in Roman Catholic churches.

The Statistical Church also has done well. The year's increase in membership, 2.8 per cent, was as usual more than the percentage increase in the population. The total in the United States for the first time passed the 100 million mark. This includes Protestant, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Jewish and some small non-Christian groups. Thirty-three million of these are Roman Catholic, and 58 million Protestant. For the purpose of this classification, Southern Baptists and Episcopalians are counted as Protestant, against the protest of many of both denominations. Two-thirds of the Protestants are in the 30 member Churches of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

The latest listing shows 268 denominations. The fragmentation of the Church is somewhat less extreme than this would suggest, for 96 per cent of the Protestants are in 53 denominations, most of the others being splinter sects. Moreover, more than three-fourths of the Protestants are either Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans

or Presbyterians. Each of these denominational families includes one or more large denominations and enough small ones (some almost microscopic) to make their collective contribution to that total of 268 sects a surprising 71.

There is no reason to doubt that the picture of the churches as active and growing is substantially accurate, but only a limited degree of reliance can be placed on the statistical totals. Some groups report baptized infants as members, others only adults. Some have no central office to receive or collect statistics, so that their reported totals are optimistic unofficial estimates.

Progress was made in church unity during the year. The basis of union between the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church was approved by both — 13 to 1 by the first, unanimously by the second—and the uniting conference is scheduled to meet in Cleveland, Ohio, June 25, 1957. The new church will be called "The United Church of Christ." A group of protesting Congregationalists has organized to continue their separate denominational existence.

Following the failure of the plan for union of the three largest Presbyterian bodies by reason of its rejection by more than one-fourth of the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern), the other two brought their negotiations to completion. The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the United Presbyterian Church have planned a joint general assembly to be held at Pittsburgh in May, 1958, but the vote by presbyteries is yet to be taken.

Details of Lutheran advances and hesitations in regard to mergers are too intricate to be reported at once briefly and accurately, but it can be confidently said that this year there was definite progress in the movement of the Evangelical Lutheran, The American Lutheran, and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church toward a union to be called the "American Lutheran Church."

Abroad, the union movement found

expression in conversations looking least toward intercommunion, and haps ultimately union, between Church of England and the Church of Scotland, and also between Methodist and Anglicans in England. Neither these showed any abatement of Anglican insistence on episcopacy, an indispensable element in the church.

Delegates from the churches in several European nations met in Belgium to consider the possible formation of a European Council of Churches, postponed definite action in the hope of a more official and widely representative conference. The executive committee of the World Council of Churches met in Sydney, Australia, and its central committee in Hungary—before the Soviet onslaught.

Evangelist Billy Graham continued to be the most conspicuous figure in his field of work and to attract large numbers wherever he speaks, enjoying the respect even of those who do not agree with his theology. He preached to throngs in Manila, Formosa, Japan, and India. An eight-week campaign in New York is planned for May, 1958.

Many church assemblies have expressed liberal sentiments on the segregation of Negroes and in approval of the Supreme Court's decision. There has been a slight, but only slight increase in the number of interdenominational churches. The Methodist General Conference evaded the issue that was raised concerning its "Central Pastoral Commission" (for Negroes) by referring it to a committee for a report in 1959. It appears that church opinion on the whole, more favorable to abolition of the caste system than secular opinion in the same communities, and Catholics are on the average more favorable than Protestants. It appears also that the clergy of both are more favorable than laymen.

In contrast to the precarious position of Jews behind the Iron Curtain, Judaism in America was in a happy state with Jewish religious mapping expansion plans.

The United Synagogue of America announced that the formation of a World Council of Conservative Synagogues was in progress. Max W. Bell of Chicago, honorary president, said it was hoped to formally convene the council at the biennial convention of the United Synagogue in Kew-Forest, N.Y., next November.

United Synagogue officials said the idea for a world council grew from requests for information they received from conservative synagogues in a number of countries.



early in the year, the Synagogue Council of America announced the launching of a nation-wide "Back to Synagogue" campaign. The agency presents Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbinical and congregational leaders in America.

The long-range campaign aims at strengthening the primacy of the Synagogue in all aspects of Jewish life in the United States. In addition to stimulating unaffiliated Jews to join a congregation, the drive developed projects to deepen religious awareness and commitments to Judaism among synagogue members.

Meanwhile, the Jewish Statistical Bureau reported that there were 4,257 Jews in this country in 1955. Nearly 900 of them were listed as officiating in Jewish congregations, with 945 engaged in full-time specialized Jewish community work, education and welfare.

The revival of religion among Jews in the world was reported by Dr. Eliezer Brodie of London, Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, last June when he came to the U.S. for a month's visit.

Dr. Brodie told the annual dinner of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America that this revival was evidenced by the ceaseless founding of communal institutions of various kinds, increased attendance at synagogue and conscious identification with the Jewish community.

## HOW BUILD THE GOOD LIFE IN SUBURBIA?

In a thousand of the newer suburbs the sounds of debate and litigation are heard. From the shores of New England to San Francisco bay, citizens of mushrooming commuter settlements are battling over plans for the use of land. In some places the planning boards are holding hearings every week. Spokesmen for factions and individuals speaking for themselves make their pleas for zoning, for changes in zoning, for and against exceptions to the rule. Here and there a group resorts to the courts. The neighborhood newspapers re-echo the arguments: the protection of property values by restricting a particular area to single-family occupancy, the need for shopping centers and factories to provide tax revenues, the rights of owners to manage their own property, the relation of schools to traffic hazards, the appropriateness of locations for churches, clubs and old people's homes. The zoning fights often are parts of larger battles with contractors who do not want to dedicate land for school or church purposes, with railroads reluctant to build stations, with the liquor interests, with state highway commissions projecting superhighways, with federal departments intent on expanding their installations. The explosive growth of suburban communities has engulfed airports, anti-

quated transportation systems and overwhelmed little towns whose old residents did not want to be overwhelmed. As the noise of argument grows louder, the observer somehow feels that the government of free men may be having another new birth. Things are not decided behind the scenes, as they are in many of the older cities. But the observer is also bothered by an atmosphere of anxiety and even animosity. He wonders what has become of those methods of cooperative discussion talked about by the group dynamics theorists. He wonders whether he is witnessing a power struggle or an earnest expression of concern for community values. Why are city planning firms not more often employed, or the technical advisers on university faculties not consulted? Is it because expert advice costs money? Doing without such advice costs more. Is it a secret that the 1954 federal housing act permits communities of fewer than 25,000 to obtain matching funds from the federal government if they want to do a good job of planning? Or is the problem the difficulty suburbanites find in answering the question: What is a good community life? In all of this it would appear that suburban church leaders have endless opportunities to present Christian values and the Christian way of ironing out disagreements.

—Christian Century

## THE LIVING WORD

By Luther A. Weigle

What is it to "burn"?

A writer in *The New Yorker*, undertaking to appraise the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, says: "I had always thought Paul's 'It is better to marry than burn' mean 'burn in hell'; but RSV makes it 'afire with passion,' which is unambiguous if banal. His admission shows that he needed the unambiguous rendering. This sentence is not the only one in his epistle which raises the question of the truth of an appraisal based on ignorance.

The text in question is 1 Corinthians 7, which reads in the King James Version, "If they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn." The word "burn" here translates a Greek passive infinitive which since the days of the poet Anacreon had been used in the sense of being inflamed or on fire with emotion, usually with lust or anger. The translation of the RSV—"If they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion"—is justified by all lexicons of the Greek language, and adopted in some form by all modern translations. The comment is worth adding that the word "better" does not mean that marriage is the less of two evils; it expresses Paul's judgment that to marry is not a sin (verses 28 and 36), while Jesus taught that to burn with lustful desire is sinful (Matthew 5:28).

The same Greek word is used in 2 Corinthians 11:29, where the King James Version has, "Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?" The word "offended" is here used in an obsolete sense which misleads the modern reader. The Revised Standard Version translates the second half of the verse: "Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?" Goodspeed's translation has "fired with indignation"; Knox's translation, "ablaze with indignation."

This word is used three times in 2 Maccabees (4:38; 10:35; 14:45) with its reference to anger made explicit.

## AUSTRIAN PROTESTANTS PRESS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

A Protestant rally was held at Vienna to press for revision of two old laws which deny non-Catholics in this country certain rights.

One of these laws, the Edict of Toleration, was passed by Emperor Joseph II some 175 years ago. The other is known as the Protestant "patent" of 1861.

For the last 26 years, Austrian Protestants have been seeking a new law to invalidate these statutes and ensure equal rights for Protestants in every sphere of public life.

They are especially anxious that spiritual care be given to Protestants doing military service and that Protestant churches be put on the same basis as welfare organizations in obtaining taxation concessions.

Present at the rally besides representatives from all non-Catholic Churches in Austria were foreign diplomats and officials of the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation.

A principal speaker was Bishop Gerhard May of Vienna, head of the Evangelical Church in Austria. He said the old laws have now become out-of-date.



# The Washington Observer

By Gerhard Lenski

## CONGRESS WILL BE BUSY

The new Congress will convene early in 1957 and it will have plenty of work to do. President Eisenhower has a large number of proposals to present, enough, as one commentator declares, to keep all our Senators and Representatives busy for the next two years on a 5-day, 40-hour a week work schedule. It reported that the President wants to make up for lost time, that he feels that the last four years were not as productive of constructive legislation as they should have been and that a speeding up of effort is now necessary.

Among the many matters awaiting Congressional attention, the following are reported as ones that will be stressed:

- (1) Increased Federal aid for education.
- (2) Foreign aid, with increased appropriations for under-developed countries. Continued appropriations for military purposes both at home and abroad.
- (3) Civil rights legislation for the purpose of expediting integration, avoiding civil disorder and strengthening minority rights.
- (4) Improvements in the Social Security program with more Federal help for the medical care of the needy, for the training of doctors and for general health insurance.
- (5) Higher postal rates.
- (6) Liberalizing and enlarging the Refugee Relief Act.
- (7) Further legislation to protect the farmer and to deal with the problem of drought.

These are only a few of the many problems which will confront Congress as it convenes once more. The most casual inspection reveals the fact that there is much here that is of great concern to every citizen in our land. With the world in its present disturbed state, it should hardly be necessary to call upon Christian people to interest themselves in the workings of their Government, to support its programs with faithfulness and to undergird its activities with prayer.

## CONGRESSMAN VAN ZANDT ON WORLD AFFAIRS

It was our privilege recently to hear Representative James Van Zandt of Pennsylvania address a group of Lutheran men in Washington, D.C. on world affairs. We wish that a far larger group, in fact, that all our American people, might have heard what this speaker, a Lutheran, had to say.

Peace on earth and good will among men, said Mr. Van Zandt, are remote possibilities as another Christmas draws near. Crisis upon crisis is the order of our day. War threatens, cold war, hot war, global war. Our leaders are apprehensive and rightly so. If war does come, the destruction and loss of life will be incalculable, perhaps complete. So said Mr. Van Zandt.

Mr. Van Zandt said more. Present day developments, serious as they are, place a tremendous responsibility upon the American people. Our national resources and our technical skills are the greatest in the world. We are gravitated into a position of leadership and leadership can be decisive. By wise and constructive action, by patience and courage, by building good will and creating confidence, it is possible for us to avert

war and to move closer to that peace for which the world longs. At the same time, we must not underestimate the immensity of our task. We need to husband our strength, to discipline our minds and bodies to be prepared for sudden emergencies that may come.

We are grateful to Mr. Van Zandt not simply because as a Lutheran he alerts Lutherans who sometimes are not too deeply concerned about their wider responsibilities, but because he speaks out of a deep conviction and a wide experience. Van Zandt is a member of the Armed Service Committee and also of the Atomic Energy Committee. In the interest of these he has traveled the world over and has personally visited a number of the centers of present world troubles. Added to all this, he has had plenty of war experience and he is acquainted in a more than academic way with the dreadful potentialities of modern war weapons of a nuclear kind. His recent reelection to Congress by an overwhelming vote is ample evidence of the confidence in which he is held by those who know him.

Congressman Van Zandt, welcome to you and thank you for the message you bring us!

## A PLEA FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

The role of the United Nations has not been easy. Again and again its majority vote has not been honored even by its own members. Disappointing examples are those of Czechoslovakia in Hungary and England, France and Israel in Egypt.

Shall we then say the United Nations is a failure? We hope not. We do not invite argument when we declare the role of this organization so important and when we plead with our people to undergird it with their prayers. Here, in the United Nations' assembly, the voice of the oppressed of this world may be heard. Here weak nations may ask for aid and protection from the strong. Here world opinion may be formed and focused on problems of peace.

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# A FREE GIFT

By Emery L. Petersen

Romans 5:18-19 "Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous."

How many of you like to get presents? Are you particular about when you get them? If you do not get them on Christmas or on your birthday, but get them some other time do you still like to get them, do you tell people, "Don't bring any presents unless I get them on my birthday"? I bet not. You do not get presents any time, don't

and let me ask you one more question: How many of you like to go to parties? Does it make any difference when the party is, or what is for? Do you like to go any time Christmas, Easter, birthday, or do you go to a party in the middle of October? Most of us like parties. And most of us will accept an invitation any time to a party, especially if it is from some one we know and like very much.

Do you know that every day God gives you a whole lot of presents, especially one very important one? And did you know that at least once a week God invites you to a party at His House—not in heaven, but in His House here on earth—in church?

But what are some of the gifts God has given to you? Every morning when you get up you should thank God for the gift of a good night's rest, a good bed to sleep on, a nice home to live in, good parents who love you and help you. We should thank God for the new day, for the sunshine, for the fresh air, for the rain or the snow. We should thank God for the clothes we wear, for our cars and bicycles, for our

We children should say, "Thank you, God, for our parents," and we parents should say, "Thank you, God, for our children."

Now these things are so common and ordinary, so close to us, and are given to us so often that we take them for granted instead of remembering to thank God for them. But stop to think about it for a moment and see if they are not gifts that come to us every day, come new and fresh every day. For if God did not want us to have them, we could not get them or keep them. If He did not permit them, we could not enjoy and love them.

Do you children stop to think about this that your parents are a gift from God? And you parents stop to think that your children are gifts? Because a thing is ordinary is no sign it is not a gift. A gift is something you get that you do not find or earn. And who of us has earned the new day, the blessing of God, the gifts of home and children and parents? We say we earn the money to buy, but I am not sure we have earned the right to own. God has given us these things. We should appreciate them, and tell Him so.

The whole process of life and living is a gift from God. It is given, and only He has the right to take it away. In the beginning the Bible tells us God created the heaven and the earth, and everything that is in them. And when it was finished He said, "It is very good." Then He created man and said, "I have made these things for you. They are my gift to you. Use them rightly."

Then many, many years later, in fact thousands of years later, there was a very nice young lady living in Nazareth in Palestine. One day the angel Gabriel came to her and said, "Mary, I have a wonderful surprise for you. A big surprise." And Mary must have said, all excited, "Tell me quickly, what is it." And the angel Gabriel said, "God has chosen you to be a special servant for Him. He is going to give you a baby. You are to call His name Jesus. He is the baby that will grow up to be the Savior of the world. He is the baby that the world has been waiting for for centuries, the baby God promised to man many, many years ago."

Can you imagine how happy Mary was? God promised her a gift—a new baby. And she was very, very happy. I think mammas and dads are always happy when a new baby comes into their home to live. Or at least they should be. Mary was very happy. And I think we can say she was very happy for three reasons.

First of all she was happy be-

cause God was giving her this new baby. It was the most marvelous gift in the world. Mary was happy because God had chosen her as His special servant. I can easily believe that many, many young ladies wanted God to choose them in this special way for this special gift, and when Mary was told she was the one she was truly glad. All of us should be happy that God has given us special things to do for Him, and we should do them as gladly and willingly as Mary did this.

But Mary was happy for a second reason. She was happy because she knew that what was to happen would make everyone else happy as soon as they learned that Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, had come into the world to fulfill the promises of God, and to make satisfaction before God for the sins of all mankind from the time of Adam and Eve until the second coming of Christ.

So we see that Jesus was not only a gift to Mary, but just as much He is a gift to you and to me. And not only that but Jesus is the greatest gift that has ever been given to anyone. And God has given Him to us.

Coming to church every Sunday should be for each of us a birthday party for Jesus. And we bring a gift to Him when we come to church, and He gives us an even greater gift every time we ask Him, or worship Him. We give Him our praise, our love, our gifts of money to help others come to know Him. He gives us forgiveness of sin when we ask for it; He gives us peace of mind and heart. He gives us assurance that His promises will come true, that there is a heaven, and if we trust in Him as Savior we can spend eternity there with Him.

We all like to go to parties, we should like to go to church. And we will when we find out what fun it is to worship Jesus, and when we realize more fully what He gives us when we come.

Paul is speaking about the gifts that Jesus gives us in the verses we read: "Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous."

As Adam and Eve sinned against God and made all men sinful, so Christ, when He came to earth lived a perfect life and was able to die on the cross to save us all from the eternal punishment of sin.

(Continued on page 13)



## Horse & Buggy Preachers

(The writer of this article wishes to remain unknown. However, we have his name and he is willing to stand by what he has written. We pray that this article may be a blessing. It is for your consideration.)

Down the street in a fairly big prairie town came a buggy. It was pulled by two gray nags, that looked not a little lifeless. Past the outfit first on one hand and then on the other passed many different cars, one was a '56 Monarch, another was a Bel Air Chev. But the man who drove on showed little concern. In fact he seemed rather relieved and content. Though out of date with his times at last here is a man of integrity. He is not a farmer, a dairyman, nor a rancher. He just happens to be the preacher! And would you believe it a man who serves three top congregations in the Lutheran Church—What's the matter? Is the fellow eccentric, a little odd perhaps . . . almost looks like a Rip Van Winkle? Well nothing has really happened that's so odd. You see the reverend just upped one Monday morning and told his wife that he was going to start living within his income, so he went out and sold his '51 Chev for \$980.00, bought a couple of nags for \$125.00 and a buggy for \$50.00, with repairs another \$20.00; \$40.00 for 4 tons of hay, a manger in front of the garage and he's all set to go. With the remainder he paid a \$250.00 grocery bill, \$100.00 on his insurance policy, long overdue, another \$100.00 on his pension, and the rest he put down to pay off his car payments remaining. He announced in church the following Sunday that there would be service once in three weeks, in each place from now on, so they'd see him in three weeks, same time, same station. And for once the pastor looked rested from his usual harried and haggard look and actually seemed at peace with himself.

We don't farm with horses any more, but we give our preachers the horse and buggy treatment. It used to be that a preacher could take a fifth of his income and buy a horse outfit that lasted a few years. But with the cost of living his salary crawled up a good mile behind the former's rise, and that was slow enough and now he is to serve his parish in keeping with the times. So he buys a car which takes all his salary for a year, spread over a period of three years you understand, feed the glutton at the gas stations on every highway curve, visit his congregations twice a week, and then put in that "Why don't you visit us?" visit, on top of

that which eats out his stomach with some vicious fee. When Sunday rolls around, buck up buster, you waited all week you know, we've made three servings let's try for four!

The doctor got ahold of this bankrupt, overworked "presten" and advised a six week's rest. So on Monday he took it the horse and buggy way, and he's looking pretty good, wouldn't you say?

The tragedy is that our pastors are underpaid, overworked and denied the rights under which the congregation is pledged to give them under the letter of the law. No pastor is overpaid in any sense of the word in this district; he is compelled to the torture of keeping his car factories going, in order to have a vehicle to serve his congregations which according to his conscience must do no matter what the cost. So the squeeze moves in, he suffers and so do the wife and children. Uncle Bill sends an old coat, an aunt sends some clothing, mom keeps a garden and the kids work in school. The spiritual load is oppressing and there's a heap to this sleepless nights, a desk cluttered with a sixteen-hour day, then we piously promise to for our pastor that he have a passion for souls."

We have called a man as a servant of God to minister to us the holy and sacred Word of God, which is our salvation; but we give him the horse and buggy treatment, with roast preacher for Sunday dinner followed up with a juicy bit of gossip on his erring children.

So we proceed to move with unswerving purpose to blindly destroy our prophets, a district which has the right to a Word for which we have not sacrificed to possess. Our Shepherds are not cared for by their flock. The situation in parsonage after parsonage is the same. We can no longer with good conscience allow this to continue and it is our business to find out and do something about it.

I wish our men would drive horses and buggies as they were some pretty good old days.

—The Shepherds



## "Let's Try It!"

By F. G. Rasmussen

In the Ansgar Lutheran, December 3, 1956, there is an article by Gerhard Lenski, "SOME DEPRESSING STATISTICS." This article should cause us to stop and consider seriously, where are we headed for as a nation?

It is a shocking thought that we have 4,500,000 known alcoholics in the United States, and the number is increasing right along. Are we going to say, what can we do about it, and let it go at that?

The next shocking figure in the article is the cost of cigarette smoking. A couple of years ago cigarette smoking fell off considerably because of the many doctors' reports on the dangers of cancer from smoking cigarettes. However, according to Lenski's article this year has somewhat blown over and cigarette smoking is on the increase.

We wonder how many true Christians are endangering their health because of the habit of cigarette smoking.

The United Evangelical Lutheran church has between 65 and 70,000 baptized members. Suppose 15,000 of them are smokers, and suppose each smoker paid \$30.00 per year for his privilege, that would make the nice sum of \$450,000 per year. Is this good stewardship on the part of God's people?

In this same Ansgar Lutheran for December 3, President C. C. Madsen had an article, "INVEST IN YOUR YOUTH." Suppose the \$450,000 mentioned above was turned into a fund for needy students, would this not be a great incentive for some sincere, needy, Christian, young person to begin preparing for the ministry, missionary, or parish work? Yes, we can do something about this terrible waste of money. Let every Christian quit smoking, then put the price of smoking into the needy fund for students. Besides his regular giving to God's cause, the smoke money should be extra. Not only should the Christian layman set a good example, but let the pastors take the lead. Let us not only preach about Christian stewardship and clean living, but let us practice what we preach.

We can declare war on liquor and on a certain chemical called "nicotine." Let's try it!

## THE WASHINGTON OBSERVER

(Continued from page 6)

is wrong. It is inevitable that there would be dissent, frustration, delay. But let it never be forgotten that every effort to solve world problems in such a united way represents a tremendous advantage beyond the old method in which each nation fights out its own battle and eats dog while the others simply watch.

We do not find in modern events any of the literal fulfillments of ancient prophecy which our fundamentalist friends do. We do feel, however, that prophets like Isaiah and Micah clearly foresaw and foretold the fact if anything even approximating world-peace is ever to come to pass, it will only come when the nations of this world, as one family, shall come to the hill of the

Lord and acknowledge Him as their Ruler and their God. True, that prophecy has not been fulfilled. And it may never be entirely fulfilled in our world. But shall we not still labor and strive for whatever realization may be possible in our times? As another Christmas dawns shall we not pray that God will bless the United Nations in the interest of world peace and that in His own good way He may now use us, the American people, to that needed end?

### ONE DRINK COULD DO IT!

From various accounts that come to us we conclude that Mr. Krushchev, the Russian leader, likes his liquor and that he inclines to indulge freely. On one occasion he is reported to have had enough to render him abusive in his speech and to have inspired him to address diplomats of the Western World, saying to them: "History is on our side. We

will bury you."

An editorial writer for one of our great city newspapers comments on this incident and says that, just as Mr. Krushchev has spoken intemperately, so it is also possible that, loaded with vodka, one glass too many, he could order his planes to attack and so start the War we fear so much.

The more one thinks about such a possibility, the more real and terrifying it becomes. Yes, we must pray that nothing of the sort ever happens and that God will mercifully protect us.

Is there not something more for us to do? Shall we ourselves not be on our guard against intemperance, not alone in drink, but also in speech and in all our conduct? Asking for protection against intemperance, shall we not also strive to be temperate and so more deserving of the protection we seek?



# THE LUTHER LEAGUE

John W. Nielsen, Editor

## LINES

## From OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

### The Year of Our Lord, 1957

By George J. Robertson

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." II Peter 3:18.

A Happy New Year to all readers of The Ansgar Lutheran! Our prayer for you is that it may be a year filled with spiritual blessings, a year in which you "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

1957 will be an eventful year for our Church. The youth of the Church will have much for which to remember this year of our Lord. God willing, we will meet for the last Synodical Luther League convention of the U.E.L.C. at Fresno, California, June 27-30. Grace Lutheran Church will be the host congregation. We will focus our attention on the words of Jesus: "THE TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE," John 8:32.

Beside Bible Camps and District Conventions, there will be the great Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August. The youth activities in connection with the Assembly will include a week of study, discussion and fellowship, August 6-12, at the A.L.C. Bible Camp near Onamia, Minnesota. Seventy-five Lutheran youth leaders between the ages of 18 and 25 will meet with a similar number of youth from the United States and Canada to study St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians under the theme: "THEY WERE MORE THAN FREE." They will discuss some of the items on the agenda of the Lutheran World Federation Assembly. They will compare notes on how Christian youth work is done in the different nations. Each day will close with an inspirational service.

There will be a YOUTH WEEKEND at the Assembly, August 23-25, in Minneapolis.

Young people are urged to come for the Friday evening meeting in the Minneapolis Auditorium. Secretary General of the UN, Dag Hammarskjold, has been invited to speak.

Saturday's schedule will include an opportunity for 1000 youth to listen to the Plenary Session of the Assembly. At 2:30 p.m. there will be a parade in downtown

Minneapolis. Youth are asked to memorize "Oonwa Christian Soldiers," "Lead On, O King Eternal," "Beautiful Savior," "A Mighty Fortress," "The Church's Foundation," and "All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name" to be sung in the parade.

An All-Lutheran Youth Choir of about 5000 voices will rehearse at 5:00 p.m. in the great outdoor stadium. They already have quite a number of names and addresses of youth who plan to take part in this choir. But they need many more. If you wish to take part, please send your name and address to The Youth Office, Route 1, Blair, Nebraska. A leaflet has been prepared giving more details of the YOUTH WEEKEND and also names of the anthems to be sung by the choir and the cities in which previous rehearsals will be held.

From 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday there will be a concert by the combined bands of Augsburg, Lutheran and St. Olaf Colleges.

At 8:00 p.m. the great Christian Youth Rally will be held. "CHRIST MAKES YOUTH MORE THAN FREE" will be the theme. More than 20,000 are expected to attend this Rally.

All this with the great Sunday Services following will give youth an opportunity of a lifetime. Get a copy of "YOUTH AT THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION ASSEMBLY" from your pastor, or write to the Youth Office.

But don't wait for these events only. Let God find you and bless you as you live EVERY DAY in fellowship with HIM.

## People and Places

### Congratulations:

We join with many others in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Leistad of Elk Horn, Iowa on the birth of their first-born son in November. Mrs. Kathy Leistad has been serving as our Synodical Luther League Secretary since the resignation of Miss Helen Videbeck.

### Luther League Rally:

On Sunday, November 4, the Luther Leagues of Bismarck, North Dakota, and Oregon, Wisconsin, met at St. John's Lutheran Church in Oregon for a Fall Luther League Rally. George Robertson, our Youth Director, spoke on the general theme, "Ambassadors for Christ," and various individual subjects under it, such as Christian witness, evangelism, and stewardship. He also suggested ways of improving our leagues and presented the call for youth projects for each month.

### Oregon, Wisconsin:

On October 7, the Luther Leaguers of St. John's Lutheran Church, Oregon, Wisconsin, enjoyed a de-



last beef supper served by a committee of "Leaguers' others." Forty-seven leaguers were in attendance. During the program which followed, Pastor LeRoy Andersen, our Synodical Luther League President, spoke the theme, "Ambassadors for Christ." Our new Youth Counsellors, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Oncken and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Larsen, were introduced to us. We also saw the film, "Missionary to Walker's Garage."

#### Lincoln, Nebraska:

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Lincoln, Nebraska has just completed a financial canvass for a new educational building and for debt retirement. The project was called "Building With Christ" and resulted in a pledge of \$47,000.00.

Taking an active part in the entire project were the other Leaguers of Our Saviour's. Eleven of them pledged a total of \$700.00 that will be paid out of small sales and allowances. The leaguers also provided free babysitting for the children of married couples who went out on the canvass. The couples expressed their appreciation by entertaining the leaguers at a party and supper.

#### Mimeograph Project:

On a recent visit to our Synodical Youth Office, Pastor Virgil Andersen of Plainview, Nebraska, noticed that Pastor Robertson, our Youth Director, was without a mimeograph and had to make use of machines belonging to others when they were not in use. Ashamed of the poor facilities we have provided our youth director, Pastor Andersen and the Plainview Luther League have started a "Mimeograph Fund" and suggest that other leagues and individuals send contributions to our Synodical Treasurer, Mr. Stan Hansen, designated "Mimeograph Fund." How about it?

## Timothy

By E. T. Homme

Young Timothy from childhood knew  
the Lord—and loved the Word;  
and "wise unto Salvation grew"  
Sacred Writings stirred.

is Soldier of the Cross to wield  
the Spirit's mighty sword—  
higher orders marched with shield  
and armor of the Lord.

The great Apostle's words remained  
His orders to obey,  
With them he knew by faith unfeigned  
He could not go astray.

And from the wounded Savior's side  
His footstep never swerved  
Because that Savior was the Guide  
And Captain that he served.

With that Divine Commander near  
The man of God could see  
In "perfect love that casts out fear"  
The way to victory.

(The above poem was submitted by an E.L.C. reader who lives at Granite Falls, Minnesota—J.W.N.)

## From The Treasurer's Report

	General Fund	Mission Fund
ATLANTIC	00.00	00.00
EAST CANADA	100.00	16.05
ILLINOIS	150.00	159.00
IOWA	1216.00	400.00
MINNESOTA	550.00	148.93
NEBRASKA	295.47	161.23
N. DAK.-MONT.	119.40	83.00
PACIFIC	161.30	150.00
WEST CANADA	00.00	00.00
WISCONSIN	173.04	169.24
Total	\$2765.21	\$1287.79

#### Monthly summary for November, 1956

GENERAL FUND	
Balance on hand 10-31-56	\$-1528.64
Receipts:	
From the Leagues	\$1335.79
From sale of literature	38.80
From Synodical Sub.	412.50
	1787.09
Total Receipts	258.45
Disbursements	\$ 622.25
Balance on hand 11-30-56	\$-363.80
MISSION FUND	
Balance on hand 10-31-56	\$2779.43
Receipts	492.02
Total	\$3271.45
Disbursements	500.00
Balance on hand 11-30-56	\$2771.45



## BY THE FIRESIDE

### MAP OF DAYS

Upon my wall I hang this map of days—  
Each day within its own small separate square;  
They lie before me, strange, uncharted ways,  
And I must travel there.

God go with me. I dare not go alone.  
Too many devious paths lead down the land.  
And I shall need, in that strange vast unknown,  
Thy hand upon my hand.

Day by day walk with me—help me find  
The high footpaths of peace, the ways of light;  
And in my climbing let me leave behind  
No bruised hurt thing at night.

For every day's equipment let me take  
The staff of Faith; Hope's lamp to guide my feet,  
A cup of water, and a loaf to break  
With others that I meet.

I hang this map of days upon my wall,  
Strange, sad, and glad emotions clutch my heart—  
The midnight bells shout out their silver call,  
And it is time to start!

—Grace Noll Crowell.

### TRY IT YOURSELF

These seven things I have tried:  
Laughing at difficulties and found  
them disappearing.

Attempting heavy responsibilities  
and found them growing lighter.

Facing a bad situation and found  
it clearing up.

Telling the truth and found it the  
easiest way out.

Doing an honest day's work and  
found it most rewarding.

Believing men honest and found  
them measuring up to expectation.

Trusting God each day and found  
him surprising with his goodness.

—North Shore Baptist

### THE PEACE OF GOD

Keep me quiet,  
Patient day by day;  
When I would go faster,  
Teach me Thy delay.

Restless, often I borrow  
From the future care;  
Teach me that tomorrow  
Shall its burdens bear.

From Thy full provision  
Daily, richly fed;  
By Thy clearer vision  
Ever safely led.

Let me to my brothers  
Turn a face serene,

Sharing thus with others  
Peace from the Unseen.

—William A. Brown

### FOR OCCUPANTS OF GLASS HOUSES

Why is it that we seem to take such  
perverse delight in catching others  
in spelling slip-ups or mistakes in  
grammar? Perhaps it is because it  
somehow jacks up our ego, makes us  
feel a little superior, to be a critic. But,  
wouldn't it jack it up even more if,  
knowing that we **could** be critical, we  
kept our mouths shut? After all, as  
Will Rogers used to say, "Everybody  
is ignorant—only on different sub-  
jects."

Dwight L. Moody, the great evangelist, once gave one of his critics something to think about. After an especially stirring sermon, one of his listeners came up to him and said, "Dr. Moody, that was a very good sermon you just preached, but I was shocked to hear so many errors in English. I must have counted at least a dozen."

Dr. Moody was silent a few moments. Then he said: "I never had much education. I know I make a lot of mistakes in grammar—and I am ashamed. But with my grammar—such as it is —I am doing the best I can to advance

the Lord's work. What are you doing with yours?"

—Whatsoever Thing

### PETITION

By Grace V. Watkins

Teach me, Lord, the beauty  
Of humble duty,  
The healing  
Of kneeling  
For quiet prayer.

And if the stair  
Of life is steep  
Oh, give the deep  
Assurance there will be  
The glory of eternity  
With Thee.

—Moody Monthly

### "TO YOUR KNEES"

A mountain climber and his guide were climbing a high peak. Coming to a particularly treacherous ridge where they were exposed to a high wind, the guide dropped to his knees for safety. Looking back, he saw his comrade trying doubtfully to walk long. Realizing his peril, he cried, "your knees, man, to your knees."

As we face the dangerous world today, we shall only walk securely if we drop to our knees when the peril is great. We do not have sufficient strength within ourselves to breast the fierce storms common to all Christians who strive to reach the higher heights of Christian experience. But we have this promise, "They that upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint" (Isa. 40:31).

Mr. Smith staggered in, wild eyes, "I shall have to sack that chauffeur's mine," he gasped. "That is 3 times a week he's nearly killed me."

"Oh, my dear," soothed his wife, "just give him one more chance."

A man's Sunday self and his weekday self, says Link, are like two halves of a round-trip ticket: not good if detached.

### Doctor's Choice.

Visiting Lady: Oh, what beautiful children! Whose are they?

Little Boy: They're the doctor's. I guess he keeps the best ones himself.



## A FAITH THAT WORKS

(Continued from page 1)

to step two. I know that worries trickle in despite the wonderful stimulation of faith. To counteract this, I need a daily "quiet time" of prayer and Bible reading. Feeling God's presence anew in prayer and living His promise in the Bible through the holes in my faulty insulation.

My third step is a better understanding of the Trinity. I believe that God is truly a three-dimensional Being. He is God. He is also God come to earth as a Man in the Person of Jesus Christ. And He is the Holy Spirit that dwells within me to do His will. I need never be alone for God is always here, comforting and guiding me, unless I shut Him out.

The fourth step is participation in a "Witnessing Fellowship." When I hear others tell how Christ has helped them in some particular way, I can relate that to my own life. Sometimes I can share an experience of my own and then my faith truly grows.

The fifth step is described in a part of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians. Just repeating his words is a help. Paul, a prisoner in Rome, has been experiencing many mental and physical hardships and tortures. But the Holy Spirit is so real to him that he nevertheless can write these comforting words to his friends:—

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

## A FREE GIFT

(Continued from page 7)

Through our faith in Jesus Christ, God's gift to us, we can live forever with God in heaven. It happens often that when we go to a party we get more than we give, don't we? The host always has it

over on us. We come to realize one day that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and the host is in a position to give us more than we give. This is especially true in church. God, Jesus Christ, who is our host gives us much more than we give. That is what Paul is telling us.

Even though we may be sinful by nature, and though we may sin often every day, and sometimes, even on the way to church, yet Jesus gives us forgiveness everytime we ask for it. And certainly in the worship service we ask for forgiveness. And forgiveness is worth much more to us than our gifts to Jesus, whether our gifts be five dollars, or a hundred dollars. Jesus' gift of forgiveness is still worth more than your money.

Your money will tell God Thank You and that is about all you can expect it to do for you. By your gift to Jesus you say, This is not a very big gift, Dear Jesus, but it is my way of saying Thank You for forgiving my sins and for letting me come to worship and to Sunday School.

Paul is also indicating to us that we receive of Jesus Christ, the gift of God's love and mercy, the gift of forgiveness because we believe in Jesus.

When we say we believe in Jesus we mean that we trust Him completely for anything and for everything. We know that He has the power and ability to help us and that He will give it to us when we ask for it and when we need it. We mean that we have faith that Jesus is our Savior, that He has made possible our forgiveness and that we can go to heaven. We mean that we know there is no one else who can do this for us except Jesus Christ.

We like parties and we like to receive gifts, and God has taken care of these things for us. We go to Church and worship God. This is more fun than a party, and we receive the most precious of all gifts from God—the gift of forgiveness of sin because of Jesus Christ's suffering and death on the cross, and our faith in Him as our risen

Savior. Let us remember this each week. And let us each day remember to say "Thank You, God" and then live as though we really believed in Christ as Savior.

## A Sermon in a Nutshell

Here is a sermon in a nutshell, on the Prodigal Son. It is three-pointed, symmetrical and comprehensive.

His Badness:

He revelled,  
He devilled,  
He grovelled.

His Sadness:

He went to the dogs,  
He ate with the hogs,  
He lost all his togs.

His Gladness:

He got the seal,  
He ate the veal,  
He danced a reel.

## NOTICE

The dates for the 1957 Convention of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church will be: Thursday evening, June 13 through Tuesday evening, June 18. Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Racine will be the hosts for this 1957 Convention.

William Larsen

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

	Total Received	Child- ren's Homes	School Fund	General Fund	Home Mission	Indian Mission	Pen- sion Fund
Previously acknowledged (December 18, 1956)	124748.23	7480.37	39935.74	20590.96	28157.82	5150.04	23433
Dannebrog, Nebr., Dannebrog Luth. Church	100.00		100.00				12
Thanksgiving Offering	12.95				2.50		
From Mrs. Viggo Petersen	2.50						
Philadelphia, Pa., Danish Ladies Aid Alpha	10.00			10.00			
Elk Horn, Ia., Elk Horn Luth. Church from the Luther League	30.00	10.00	10.00		10.00		
From Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Kulken	5.00						5
Castro Valley, Calif., Faith Luth. Church	100.00				100.00		41
Minden, Nebr., Fredericksburg Luth. Church in memory of Mads. Madsen	221.22	13.00	92.00	24.22	46.00	5.00	27
Kansas City, Kan., Westwood Luth. Church	146.50	8.00	61.00	17.50	30.00	3.00	
Atlantic, Ia., St. Paul's Luth. Church, rec'd of Mr. and Mrs. Vic Petersen of Walnut, Ia., a Christmas Gift	100.00			100.00			
Humboldt, Ia., Trinity Luth. S. S., Christmas Offering for the Oaks and Elim Children's Homes \$55.60	100.00		25.00	25.00	25.00		25
Laurel, Nebr., Gethsemane Luth. Ladies Aid	100.00			30.00			
Springfield, Minn., Brookville Luth. Ladies Aid	30.00			25.00	5.00		47
Morgan, Minn., Bethany Luth. Church	250.00	15.00	105.00	50.00	105.00	10.00	95
Farmington, Minn., Farmington Ev. Luth. Church	500.00	30.00	210.00	56.78			
Cushing, Wis., Cushing Luth. Church	58.78	2.00		20.00	4.00		51
Milltown, Wis., Milltown Luth. Church	213.50	12.00	84.00	42.00	5.00		
Ruskin, Nebr., Bethany Luth. Church, rec'd of Mr. and Mrs. Jens C. Hansen	15.00	10.00		60.00			
Audubon, Ia., Ebenezer Luth. Church from Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Anderson	60.00						
Greenville, Mich., St. Paul's Luth. Ladies Aid, Children's Homes (Oaks and Elim) \$5.00 each	40.00			40.00			
Elba, Nebr., Elba Luth. Ladies Aid	40.00						
Sheridan, Mich., Rec'd of Ronald Christensen and Family of Greenville, Mich., in memory of his father Alfred Christensen	5.00	5.00					
Kenmare, No. Dak., Trinity Luth. Church, from Dorcas Ladies Aid (Elim and Oaks Children's Homes)	45.00	45.00					35
Sleepy Eye, Minn., Trinity Luth. Church	35.70						10
Indianapolis, Ind., First Trinity Ev. Luth. Ladies Aid	30.00	10.00					
Dannebrog, Nebr., Dry Creek Luth. Church, Home Builders	10.00	10.00					23
Viborg, So. Dak., Bethany Luth. Church	23.00						
Westbrook, Me., Trinity Luth. Church in memory of Ada Anderson from Mr. and Mrs. Lester Westburg	5.00		5.00				
Plainview, Nebr., Bethany Luth. Church	39.30			39.30			16
Denver, Colo., Christ the King Ev. Luth. Church	85.00	5.00	35.00	10.00	17.00	2.00	38
Edmore, Mich., Our Saviour's Luth. Church	203.03	12.00	94.00	23.03	42.00	4.00	
Waukesha, Wis., Rec'd of Rev. Laurits H. Pedersen	15.00		15.00				
Humboldt, Ia., Trinity Luth. Church, given by friends in memory of Otto Andersen	5.00				5.00		
Elk Horn, Ia., Elk Horn Luth. Church from Salem Ladies Aid	3.00				3.00		
Blair, Nebr., First Luth. Church from Rev. William Larsen for Christmas Day Offering	25.00		25.00				13
Edmore, Mich., Our Saviour's Luth. Church	13.82						
Audubon, Ia., Our Saviour's Ev. Luth. Church from the Danish Ladies Aid	30.00	30.00					25
Petaluma, Calif., Elim Luth. Church, from Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Nielsen, in memory of friends and relatives	25.00						57
Luck, Wis., First English Ev. Luth. Church	300.00	18.00	126.00	30.00	63.00	6.00	250
Chicago, Ill., Atonement Luth. Church	250.00						6
Oaks, Okla., Eben Ezer Luth. Church from Mrs. Helen S. Romer	6.00						
Reedley, Calif., Ebenezer Luth. Church, \$10 in memory of Chris Jensen, \$10 in memory of J. C. Madsen and \$10 in memory of Anthon C. Nelson	30.00						30
Indianapolis, Ind., from Mrs. Hansine Jensen for the Children's Homes (Oaks and Elim) for Christmas Gifts \$5.00 each	10.00	10.00					
Geneva, Minn., Geneva Luth. Ladies Aid	10.00	10.00					
Sleepy Eye, Minn., Fredsminde Luth. Church	75.00	4.50	31.50	7.50	15.75	1.50	14
Owtonna, Minn., Our Saviour's Luth. Church	200.00		100.00	50.00			50
From the Sunday School	68.55	68.55					
Oregon, Wis., St. John's Luth. Church from the Ladies Aid	21.55	21.55					
Eben Ezer Mercy Institute \$25.00							
Oaks, Okla., From Flint, Okla., S. S.	10.15	5.15				5.00	
Humboldt, Ia., Trinity Luth. Church	100.00	6.00	42.00	10.00	21.00	2.00	19
Dannebrog, Nebr., Dannebrog Luth. S. S., Christmas Tree Offering \$33.26 and Birthday Bank \$7.38	40.64	40.64					
Mission Bank Offering	18.56				18.56		
Davey, Nebr., Nazareth Luth. Church	23.00					23.00	
Elk Horn, Ia., Elk Horn Luth. S. S.	75.00	50.00			25.00		
Albert Lea, Minn., Rec'd of Mrs. Fred F. Petersen, Christmas Gifts for Oaks and Elim Children's Homes \$3.03 each							

## Total received to date

1956-57 Budget	339317.00	19404.00	143033.00	32103.00	70662.00	7800.00	6631
Percentages (approximate)	100 Pct.	.06	.42	.10	.21	.02	.10

## SPECIAL MISSIONS

	Total Received	Foreign Missions (Where Most Needed)	1956 Luth. World Action	South Amer. Mission	Japan Mission	Santal Mission	Sudan Mission	Jewish Mission	China Mission
Previously acknowledged (December 18, 1956)	91647.38	4545.78	32910.99	13844.37	14710.22	11316.95	13788.22	480.85	56
Dannebrog, Nebr., Dannebrog Luth. Church	70.00		70.00						
Coulter, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church	20.00			5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00		
McNabb, Ill., McNabb Luth. Church	104.00		104.00						
Elk Horn, Ia., Elk Horn Luth. Church	20.00		10.00			10.00			
Parkjull Mission	10.00					10.00			
From Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Kulken	10.00		10.00						
From Mr. and Mrs. Celius Petersen (Parkjull)	25.00					25.00			
From Mr. and Mrs. Milo Andersen	5.00		5.00						
From Mr. and Mrs. Ludvig Larsen	3.00		3.00						
From Mrs. And. Petersen (for support of a student)	10.00								
Castro Valley, Calif., Faith Luth. Church	35.00		35.00				10.00		
Racine, Wis., Our Savior's Ev. Luth. Church	1245.80		995.80						
Coulter, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church	237.64		237.64	62.50	62.50	62.50	62.50		
St. Paul, Nebr., St. Mark's Luth. Church	15.00		15.00						
West Branch, Ia., Bethany Luth. Church	145.12		145.12						
Westby, Mont., Emmaus Luth. Church	15.00		15.00						
Minneapolis, Minn., Edina Community Luth. Church	50.00		50.00						
Hungarian Relief	50.00		50.00						
Piedmont, Calif., Rec'd of Metta Aaskov	10.00		10.00						
Minden, Nebr., Fredericksburg Luth. Church, in memory of Mads. Madsen									
Eugene, Ore., Bethesda Luth. Ladies Aid	14.50			14.50					
Ruskin, Nebr., Bethany Luth. Church, rec'd of Mr. and Mrs.	40.00			10.00	10.00			10.00	



ms C. Hansen	25.00			5.00	10.00	5.00	5.00		
rk, Wis., Our Savior's Luth. Church	650.00		650.00						
er, Ia., Dolliver Luth. Church	49.40		49.40						
ing Prairie, Minn., Trinity Luth. Church	85.00		85.00						
h, Wis., Our Savior's Luth. S. S.	115.67		115.67						
y, Mont., Pella Luth. Ladies Aid, in memory of Mrs. Stina Hansen	5.00				5.00				
n, Nebr., Daughters of Bethany Luth. Church, Hungarian Relief Fund	10.00		10.00						
ale, Minn., St. Ansgar Luth. Church	74.10		74.10						
Nebr., First Luth. Church, rec'd of Mr. and Mrs. Otto H. gave in memory of her father Rev. N. P. Nielsen	25.00		25.00						
Nebr., First Luth. Church, from Rev. William Larsen for Christmas Day Offering	25.00		25.00						
So. Dak., Rec'd of Erland L. Tanderup	10.00				10.00				
field, Minn., St. Peter's Luth. Church	33.63		33.63						
y, Mont., Brorson Luth. Church from Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Lynneson	75.00	25.00	25.00		25.00				
s, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church	68.90		68.90						
rok, Me., From friends in memory of Mrs. Aage Anderson Annie Peterson) of Portland, Me.	12.00							12.00	
re, Mich., Our Saviour's Luth. S. S.	27.84		27.84						
on, Ia., Our Saviour's Ev. Luth. Church from the Danish Ladies Aid	80.00		20.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00		
n Eye, Minn., Trinity Luth. Church	132.90		132.90						
iven by Mr. and Mrs. Jerome L. Johnson	10.00					5.00	5.00		
ngton Is., Wis., Trinity Ev. Luth. Church	162.50		162.50						
o, Calif., Bethel Ev. Luth. Church	196.97		196.97						
nd, Me., Emmaus Luth. Church	166.70		166.70						
okee, Wis., Galilee Luth. Church	154.94		154.94						
Okla., Eben Ezer Luth. Church from Mrs. Helen S. Romer	34.00		34.00						
er, Ia., Rec'd of Mrs. John M. Jensen for Hungarian Relief	5.00		5.00						
n, N. Dak., United Luth. Church	50.00		50.00						
Rapids, Ia., Immanuel Luth. Church	20.50		20.50						
t, Mich., Northwest Trinity Ev. Luth. Church	87.92		87.92						
or Missions	150.00			35.00	30.00	50.00	35.00		
orn, Ia., Elk Horn Luth. Church from A. P. Topp	1.00		1.00						
Calif., Pella Ev. Luth. Church for the Hungarian Relief	235.00		235.00						
n Eye, Minn., Fredsminde Luth. Church	32.00		32.00						
n, Wis., St. John's Luth. Church	91.67		91.67						
ead, Ia., Bethesda Luth. Church	219.17		219.17						
n, Nebr., Gethsemane Luth. Church from Alice and Margot Christensen for Dr. Winther	20.00				20.00				
o, Ill., Golgotha Luth. Church	163.76		163.76						
apolis, Minn., Immanuel Ev. Luth. Church	16.65		16.65						
Total received to date	97104.66	4570.78	37646.77	13976.87	14917.22	11514.45	13937.72	490.85	50.00
Budget	111144.00		43399.00	16000.00	25000.00	10000.00	16745.00		
stages (approximate)	100 Pct.		.39	.14	.23	.09	.15		
ed with thanks.									
Blair, Nebr., December 27, 1956.									
P. V. Hansen, Treasurer.									

# RESOLUTIONS AND NOTES

(Continued from page 2)

na Lutheran Church, as chair-  
the Rev. Dr. Raymond W. War-  
Hancock, Mich., president of the  
sh Evangelical Lutheran Church  
ni Synod) as vice chairman; the  
Dr. Carl Rasmussen, Gettysburg,  
of the United Lutheran Church  
merica, as secretary; and the Rev.  
ohannes Knudsen, Maywood, Ill.,  
e American Evangelical Lutheran  
ch, as assistant secretary.

e next meeting of the joint com-  
on has been called by its eight-  
steering committee for March 8  
9 in Chicago.

e steering committee was em-  
red to appoint two committees,  
on doctrinal basis and living tra-  
s and another on the pattern of  
h organization.

resolution, drafted by Dr. Fry,  
was adopted unanimously by  
ommission, recognized that suf-  
doctrinal agreement exists  
g the four bodies to proceed with  
looking toward formation of a  
church.

Dr. Fry' resolution said: „After  
hearing the reading and interpreta-  
tion of the doctrinal statements of the  
four churches here represented, the  
Joint Commission rejoices to note that  
we have among us sufficient grounds  
of agreement in the common confes-  
sion of our faith,as witnessed by the  
Lutheran Confessions, to justify fur-  
ther procedure in seeking organic  
union of our churches, including the  
formation of a proposed constitution  
for a united church, having in it ar-  
ticles on doctrine and practical mat-  
ters of organization.”

Dr. Benson, who served as tempor-  
ary chairman during the two-day con-  
ference at the Conrad Hilton Hotel  
here, set the theme for the discussions.

“The goal of all of us is a total Lu-  
theran church in America,” Dr. Ben-  
son said. He stressed the necessity for  
the four church bodies represented at  
the conference “to keep the channels  
open to all other American Lutheran  
church bodies,” even though they had  
declined invitations to this union  
meeting.

Present polity of the ULCA, Au-  
gustana, Suomi and AELC was re-

viewed at the opening of the two-day  
preliminary conference.

Dr. Henry Bagger, president of the  
Philadelphia Lutheran Theological  
Seminary, discussed “Possible Patterns  
of Organization of a Merged Church.”

While advocating no special form  
of church organization, Dr. Bagger said  
there were three patterns that could  
be considered: one with the extreme  
emphasis on the congregation; the  
second, with extreme emphasis on the  
synodical or regional level; and third,  
one with the extreme emphasis in the  
general body.

Dr. Bagger suggested that it would  
be the wiser course to have a “loose”  
organization at first in a new church,  
and “let the form materialize as we  
mature.”

“Mere federation or a conferential  
relationship is not enough,” Dr. Bag-  
ger warned, “since merger or organic  
union is both our directive and our  
aim.”

He said it would be necessary to  
compromise instead of adopting any  
single pattern of organization.



# LUTHER LEAGUE

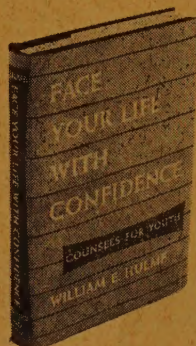
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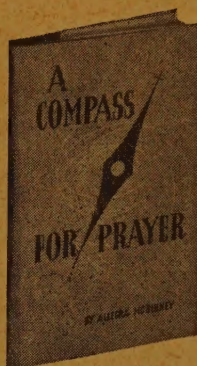
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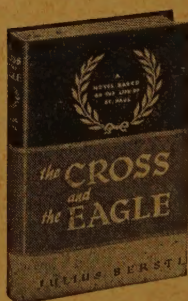
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